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FACT SHEET

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Office of Court Construction and Management

Established in August 2003 as a division of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the Office of Court Construction and Management (OCCM) leads the implementation of the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002 (Sen. Bill 1732; Stats. 2002, ch. 1082), landmark legislation that shifts the governance of California's courthouses from the counties to the state. Preparation for this stewardship includes long-term facilities master planning for the trial courts; strategic planning for capital outlay and funding to support design and construction of new and renovated courthouses; and facility and real estate management for the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, and trial courts statewide.

Mission

The mission of OCCM is to enhance the administration of justice by providing responsible and efficient professional stewardship of California's court facilities; promote the safety and security of court users and staff while supporting equal access to justice; lead the design and management of judicial architecture; and exceed the expectations of clients and constituents.

Current Programs

Transfer of responsibility for court facilities under Senate Bill 1732

OCCM is creating the institutional tools needed by the AOC to execute the key provisions of SB 1732, which include the transfer of both responsibility and titles for more than 450 court facilities from the counties to the state. In each case, the Judicial Council and the AOC represent the state in all aspects of transfer negotiations with the counties, assume responsibility for the administration and maintenance of court facilities following their transfer, and administer all renovation and new construction projects for the courts. The transfers will reduce the counties' financial burden, promote cost savings and efficiency, and help equalize access to safe and secure court facilities statewide.

Contact: Burt Hirschfeld, Assistant Division Director for Real Estate and Asset Management, 415.865.8025

Trial courts: Capital outlay planning

Trial court and county leaders collaborated with OCCM to develop a 20-year facility master plan for each of the 58 superior courts in California. The projects were rated using a procedure approved by the Judicial Council, and were subsequently consolidated in the AOC's *Trial Courts Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan*. The plan was first presented to the Judicial Council on February 27, 2004. It ranks 201 court facility projects statewide, with at least one project slated for every county. The plan includes critical life and health safety improvements in California's court buildings, many of which are in a state of significant disrepair. Long-term funding in the form of a general obligation bond will be necessary to fund the plan.

Contact: Lee Willoughby, Assistant Director for Design and Construction Services, 916-263-1493

Trial courts: Consultation and advocacy

OCCM directly supports the trial courts' facility planning initiatives. Because the counties are responsible for providing the trial courts with "necessary and suitable" facilities until the transfers are executed, OCCM assists courts in identifying their facility needs and advocating for their positions with the counties.

Contact: Bob Emerson, Assistant Director for Business and Policy Planning, 415-865-7981

Appellate courts: Acquisition and development

OCCM will establish a comprehensive five-year capital facilities plan for the appellate courts based on their needs and preexisting programs, and will work closely with the courts to meet their space requirements. Currently OCCM is leading the design and construction of new courthouses for the Fifth Appellate District and Division Three of the Fourth Appellate District, in partnership with the Department of General Services' Real Estate Services Division and the courts.

Contact: Lee Willoughby, Assistant Director for Design and Construction Services, 916-263-1493

Additional resources: Programs and publications, including *Trial Courts Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan*, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/